

Agnes Agnew

(*uxor Agnes Jones*)

POLICE NUMBER 139 ¹	LITERACY neither read nor write
TRIAL DATE 7 May 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 21
TRIAL PLACE Glasgow Court of Justiciary	AGE ON ARRIVAL 23
OFFENCE robbing a young woman of £4	HEIGHT 5' 1¾" or 5' ¾"
SENTENCE 14 years	COMPLEXION fair
GAOL REPORT not known, bad, single	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS none	HAIR light red
SURGEON'S REPORT subject to illness otherwise orderly	VISAGE round
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD flat
MARITAL STATUS single	EYEBROWS light brown
CHILDREN 0	EYES hazel
FAMILY	NOSE medium
NATIVE PLACE High Street, Glasgow, Scotland	MOUTH medium
TRADE ON EMBARKATION weaver	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL house servant	MARKS pockpitted and freckled

c1819

Born at High Street, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland.²

7 May 1840

Tried at the Court of Justiciary, Glasgow, Scotland indicted for robbery and assault in robbing Agnes Pollock (*ux Yates*) of three £1 notes, a bonnet, a cap, a shawl and a petticoat and assaulting her; verdict guilty of robbery, the Advocate Depute passing from the charge of assault; sentence 14 years transportation; aged 21, steam loom weaver, resident of New Vennel, Glasgow, native of Glasgow.³

Statement of witness Agnes Pollock:

Appeared Agnes Pollock or Yates wife of & residing with John Yates Hillman at the Cleugh Coal Pit near Airdrie, in the Parish of Old Monkland & County of Lanark who Declares that she is twenty six year of age – and resides at the Clough Coal Pit near Airdrie that on Wednesday the 15 January 1840 she had occasion to be in Glasgow; and near to six o'clock in the Evening was on her way home when she was accosted in Bell Street by two young women who were strangers to her. That one of them laying hold of the Declarant's arm asked if she was not going to give them a dram. That the Declarant declined saying she was going home and that she stayed in the country. That the taller of the two – and who is the Prisoner Agnes Agnew – then said "Will you give us a gill's price then?" adding "I have got my stays & shoes stolen and am starving of cold" and she half pushed and half persuaded the Declarant into a Public House or Spirit Shop in Bell Street where they had a gill that the other woman whose name, as the Declarant afterwards learned, is Sarah Hannah went into the Public House with them. That they remained there only a few minutes and on leaving, the Declarant proceeded towards the Public Cross from which the Coaches for Airdrie start – it being her intention to proceed by Coach to Airdrie. That the Prisoner Agnew accompanied her to the Cross. That on arriving there the Declt learned that the last Coach was away and that there was no other Conveyance that night. That Agnew then proposed to her that as she the Declt. was a stranger in the town, and that as she, Agnew, had a house of her own, & had nobody staying with her, the Declarant should stay with her all night, and walk home in the morning. That before having made up her mind as to what she would do, the Declarant accompanied Agnew to her house – at least to a house she understood to be Agnew's and which is within a Close or Court in New Vennel, and up an outside stair. That the Prisoner knocked at the door, which was opened by a little girl; and as soon as they had entered the Prisoner barred the door and said to the Declarant "Now you B__r I'll do for you now. I'll take your life before you go

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/2 pp.16–17 No.139 [images 18–19] (Agnes Agnew); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.177 [image 92] (Agnes Agnew); ML, CY 1282 p.144 (Agnes Agnew); ML, CY 1197 p.157 (Agnes Agnew); ML, CY 958 p.444 (Agnes Agnew)

² TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.177 [image 92] (Agnes Agnew)

³ NAS, AD14/40/229 (Agnes Agnew); NAS, JC26/1840/270 (Agnes Agnew)

This biography supplements our book *Patchwork Prisoners* available from www.researchtasmania.com.au.

out the house the night;" upon saying which she tore off the Declarant's Bonnet Cap, & Shawl, and then proceeded to feel all about the Declarant's person & clothes for money; expressing her belief that the Declt. had money. That she also untied the Declarant's drugget Petticoat, and drew it off her, saying she would take it, as she had none. That the Declarant strove & did all she could to prevent the Prisoner taking these articles but the Prisoner, who is a powerful woman, overcame her and forced them from her, and when doing so, she struck the Declarant a number of blows on the face and breast with her fist – drove her several times down upon a chair at the fireside – and knocked her down, once, on the floor. That the only person in the house at this time besides the Prisoner & the Declt were Sarah Hannah and the little girl referred to neither of whom took part with Agnew in maltreating the Declarant. That when the Declt was lying on the floor after having been knocked down by Agnew, the latter cried "Bring me a knife till I cut her throat & kill the B___r." That Hannah begged her to spare "the lassie's life and to let her out." and Hannah having at the same time opened the door the Declt under the influence of terror for her life effected her escape – rushing out of the house. That Agnew followed her to the foot of the outside stair and called after her – "Now you B___ if you tell any body, I'll follow you through the town and take your life." That the Declarant was then without her

Bonnet

Cap

Shawl and

Petticoat

but she was glad to escape in that state. That in the Vennal and near the mouth of the Close she saw two Baker Lads whom she told what had been done to her and they having offered their assistance the Declarant conducted them to the house that one of the Bakers knocked at the door but this was not opened for some time nor till he had threatened to break it up. That at length it was opened but the Declt did not see by whom that Agnew was in the Kitchen and she then denied the whole matter of charge and denied having seen the Declt before. That Agnew had on at this time the Declt's drugget petticoat; and on the Declt's claiming it, she threatened to strike her and would have struck her but for the interposition of one of the Bakers. That one of these lads went for the Police while the other & the Declarant stood outside the door till two Watchmen arrived with whom they reentered the house. That by this time Agnew had divested herself of the drugget petticoat and it and the other articles belonging to the Declarant were found lying on the ground outside and directly below one of the windows of the house – viz the room window which was open and Agnew or Hannah must have thrown them over – or the little girl before referred to. That the only persons in the house when the Watchmen arrived were Agnew & Hannah. That the little girl had slipped out some way or other. That the whole of the property ~~taken~~ of which the Declt had been robbed as above narrated was found outside, below the room window – except three Bank Notes for one pound each which she had had pinned inside of her pocket. That these notes Agnew took from her when she was searching the Declt's person; and after she had taken them she continued to search under the Declarant's stays and about every part of her dress – saying "You have more siller" That the Declt does not know of what Bank any of the notes were. That besides these the only money she had when the Prisoner accosted her in Bell Street was five pence or five pence half penny, and of this she spent four pence in the Public House. Declares that she had never spoken to Agnew or Hannah till the former laid hold of her arm in Bell Street and asked the Declt to treat them to a dram as before stated and it was the Declt's intention to go home till Agnew urged her to stay all night with her. That the Declt never proposed to pawn her Petticoat or any part of her dress, that the moment she had entered the house in New Vennal, Agnew commenced the assault and robbed her of the articles and money before mentioned. That after calling for a knife to kill the Declt, though a knife was not given her, she got one herself and had it in her hand when the Declt effected her escape from the house. All which she declares to be truth and declares she cannot write and identifies in Court the Bonnet Cap Shawl and Petticoat alone spoken of.⁴

⁴ NAS, AD14/40/229 (Agnes Agnew)

Statement of defendant Agnes Agnew:

Appeared Agnes Agnew who being admonished and examined Declares that she is a native of Glasgow, twenty one years of age, employed as a Steam Loom Weaver, and resides in New Vennal. That last night she fell in with a woman who was a stranger to her in Bell Street, the woman having made up to her, and told her she had no place to go to. That the Declarant said she would give her a bed if she would go with her to her Lodgings, and the woman went with the Declarant to the house of Elizabeth McCormick in New Vennal where the Declarant had lodged for two nights before. That after going to the house the woman said she was hungry, and that if the Declarant would allow her to stay all night she would pawn her petticoat, which the Declarant remarks she was not likely to have proposed, if, as she now says, she had three pounds to be robbed of. That the woman began to take off her clothes, and then said ~~that~~ she had lost some money. That she and the Declarant began to quarrel about this, and the woman ran out making a noise, in consequence of which the Police came and apprehended the Declarant and also Sarah Hannah, a girl who had come in when the woman and the Declarant were quarrelling. Declares that she is innocent of the charge of robbing the woman of three pounds or any money whatever or any of her clothes. That she did not see any Bank Notes in her possession. That she did not threaten to take the woman's life or to do any thing to her, but she was angry at her and may have struck her. That the woman took off her Bonnet, and some of her clothes herself, and the Declarant did not take any of them from her. All which she Declares to be truth, and declares she cannot write.⁴

- 5 April 1841 Departed Woolwich, England on the *Rajah*.⁵
- 5 July 1841 Put on the *Rajah* sick list suffering from obstipation;⁶ aged 21.⁷
- 8 July 1841 Put off the *Rajah* sick list.⁷
- 19 July 1841 Arrived at Hobart on the *Rajah*.⁵
- c24 July 1841 Upon arrival at Hobart, initially listed to be sent to Launceston for assignment, but instead sent to Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.⁸
- 28 September 1841 Charged with being absent all day without leave from the service of Macmichael; sentence 1 month at the wash tub at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.⁹
- 14 December 1841 Charged with being drunk; in the service of Rowe; sentence 10 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.⁹
- 31 December 1841 Mustered at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹⁰
- 14 January 1842 Charged with being drunk; in the service of White; sentence 3 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.⁹
- 17 May 1842 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of Constable Cook with misconduct in absenting herself without leave yesterday from the service of Mr Watchorn; plea guilty; sentence 6 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹¹
- 23 June 1842 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of Constable Hadfield with disobedience of orders; in the service of Mr Benford;¹² plea guilty; to be received into Cascades Female Factory, Hobart for further orders.¹³
- 18 November 1842 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of DC Partridge with misconduct in escaping from the house of her master by getting over the fence; in the

⁵ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁶ Obstipation is chronic constipation.

⁷ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah* (Agnes Agnew)

⁸ ML, CY 1282 p.141 (Agnes Agnew); ML, CY 1274 p.253 (Agnes Agnew)

⁹ TAHO, CON40/1/2 pp.16-17 No.139 [images18-19] (Agnes Agnew)

¹⁰ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.345 No.139 (Agnes Agnew)

¹¹ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 17 May 1842 (Agnes Agnew)

¹² This name is difficult to decipher and so may not be Benford.

¹³ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 23 June 1842 (Agnes Agnew)

- service of Mr O'Meagher; plea guilty; sentence 12¹⁴ months hard labour in the Crime Class at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, then assigned in the interior.¹⁵
- 11 September 1843 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by Constable Jones with insolence yesterday; in the service of Mr Grant, O'Brien's Bridge; plea guilty; sentence 4 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, then returned to her service.¹⁶
- 21 October 1843 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by her mistress with misconduct in being out after hours last night; in the service of Mrs Levy, Liverpool Street, Hobart; plea guilty; reprimanded and returned to the Crown.¹⁷
- 26 December 1843 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by her master with being absent without leave; in the service of Mr Bastian, Campbell Street, Hobart; plea guilty; reprimanded and discharged to her service.¹⁸
- 22 January 1844 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by her master with misconduct in being absent without leave yesterday and taking his children in a cab to O'Brien's Bridge and returning drunk; in the service of Mr Bastian; sentence 6 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹⁹
- Statement of witness Mrs Bastian:
*The prisoner had permission to go out for a walk with the children yesterday afternoon, but instead of that she took them in a cab with some men to O'Brien's Bridge and did not return until 8 o'clock & then she was half drunk, in about ½ an hour after she again absent herself & I sent a Constable after her.*¹⁹
- 27 February 1844 Classified as a 3rd class probation pass-holder; gazetted 1 March.²⁰
- 21²¹ September 1844 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by Constable Haynescock with being drunk last night; in the service of Mr Hart; plea guilty; sentence 14 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.²²
- Shipmate Ann Screech (*qv*) also arrested.²²
- 6 January 1845 Hired in private service for 12 months as a probation pass-holder to Richard Chelton, High Plains.²³
- 13 January 1845 Charged at the Police Court, Hamilton by her mistress with misconduct in drinking and smoking in her bedroom from 9 until 12 o'clock at night, and with insolence; in the service of Richard Chelton, High Plains; plea not guilty, verdict guilty; sentence 7 days and nights in solitary confinement.²⁴
- Sarah Green (*East London*) charged with misconduct in drinking and smoking in her bedroom from 9 until 12 o'clock at night; plea not guilty, verdict guilty; sentence 7 days and nights in solitary confinement.²⁴
- Statement of witness Mrs Chelton:
*Last night the two women were smoking and drinking from 9 until 12 o'clock at night within bed room. I found this bottle in their bed room, it has rum in it. Agnes was very insolent to me.*²⁴
- April 1845 At Launceston.⁹
- 3 April 1845 Hired in private service for 12 months as a probation pass-holder to EP Tregurtha, Launceston.²⁵

¹⁴ Conduct record gives the sentence as 3 months.

¹⁵ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 18 November 1842 (Agnes Agnew)

¹⁶ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 11 September 1843 (Agnes Agnew)

¹⁷ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 21 October 1843 (Agnes Agnew)

¹⁸ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 26 December 1843 (Agnes Agnew)

¹⁹ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 22 January 1844 (Agnes Agnew)

²⁰ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 1 March 1844 p.265 (Agnes Agnew)

²¹ Date given as 23 September 1844 on conduct record.

²² TAHO, AC480/1/1, 21 September 1844 (Agnes Agnew)

²³ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 28 January 1845 p.110 (Ann Agnew)

²⁴ TAHO, LC208/1/4 p.142 (Agnes Agnew & Sarah Green)

²⁵ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 22 April 1845 p.524 (Agnes Agnew)

7 April 1845	Charged with being absent without leave from the service of EP Tregurtha, Launceston; sentence 10 days in solitary confinement at Launceston Female Factory. ⁹
23 April 1845	Hired in private service for 1 month as a probation pass-holder to Robert Marlow, Launceston. ²⁶
5 June 1845	Hired in private service for 1 month as a probation pass-holder to James East, Launceston. ²⁷
15 July 1845	Hired in private service for 1 month as a probation pass-holder to John Glover, Evandale. ²⁸
22 August 1845	Hired in private service for 1 month as a probation pass-holder to James Lyall, Swan Bay. ²⁹
24 September 1845	Hired in private service for 1 month as a probation pass-holder to George Robinson, Fingal. ³⁰
22 November 1845	Charged with being absent without leave from the service of George Robinson, Fingal; sentence 2 months hard labour at Launceston Female Factory. ⁹
12 February 1846	Charged with absconding from the service of Palmer; sentence 3 months hard labour at Launceston Female Factory. ⁹
21 July 1846	Charged with assaulting a constable; in the service of Coates; sentence 6 months hard labour at Launceston Female Factory. ⁹
12 February 1847	Application for permission to marry William Jones (free) sent to Secretary; approved. ³¹
16 February 1847	Notice given of approval for permission to marry William Jones; Agnes in private service, resident of Launceston; William free, resident of Launceston. ³²
22 February 1847	Charged with drunkenness; in the service of Johnson; admonished. ⁹
20 March 1847	Married William Jones at St John's Anglican Church, Launceston; Agnes aged 28, prisoner, single, illiterate; William aged 33, free, general dealer, widower, illiterate; witnesses J Wood and Edward Morton. ³³
8 July 1847	At Launceston. ⁹
22 October 1847	At Launceston. ⁹
16 February 1848	Charged with absence; sentence 14 days in solitary confinement at Launceston Female Factory. ⁹
11 April 1848	Application for a Ticket of Leave; not recommended. ³⁴
15 July 1848	Charged with being out after hours etc; sentence 14 days in cells at Launceston Female Factory. ⁹
24 January 1849	Charged with being drunk and out after hours; sentence 14 days in cells at Launceston Female Factory. ⁹
26 January 1849	At Launceston. ⁹
7 May 1849	Charged with being out after hours; sentence 6 days in cells at Launceston Female Factory. ⁹
22 October 1849	Charged with being drunk; sentence 14 days in cells at Launceston Female Factory. ⁹
30 April 1850	Application for a Ticket of Leave. ⁹
7 May 1850	Ticket of Leave granted. ⁹

²⁶ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 13 May 1845 p.590 (Agnes Agnew)

²⁷ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 1 July 1845 p.769 (Agnes Agnew)

²⁸ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 5 August 1845 p.959 (Agnes Agnew)

²⁹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 16 September 1845 p.1165 (Agnes Agnew)

³⁰ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 4 November 1845 p.1380 (Agnes Agnew)

³¹ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.246 (Agnes Agnew & William Jones)

³² *Hobart Town Gazette*, 16 February 1847 p.187 (William Jones & Agnes Agnew)

³³ TAHO, RGD37/1/6 1847/1113 Launceston (William Jones & Agnes Agnew)

³⁴ TAHO, CON47/1/1 (Agnes Agnew)

21 May 1851	Charged with being out after hours; sentence 1 month hard labour at Launceston Female Factory. ⁹
30 May 1851	At Launceston. ⁹
20 October 1851	Charged with disturbing the peace; fined 5 shillings. ⁹
9 February 1852	Charged with being drunk; fined 5 shillings. ⁹
10 February 1852	Recommended for a Conditional Pardon; gazetted 14 February. ³⁵
30 March 1852	Charged with being drunk; fined 5 shillings. ⁹
24 May 1852	Charged with being drunk and absent from her authorised place of residence; sentence 1 month hard labour at Launceston Female Factory. ⁹
28 May 1852	At Launceston Female Factory. ⁹
22 June 1852	Discharged from Launceston Female Factory, ticket-of-leave holder. ⁹
4 September 1852	Charged with being drunk; fined 5 shillings. ⁹
15 September 1852	Charged with being drunk, fined 5 shillings. ⁹
29 September 1852	At Launceston Female Factory. ⁹
19 October 1852	Ticket of Leave revoked; gazetted 23 October. ³⁶
29 December 1852	Hired in private service as a probation pass-holder to J McNeal, Longford. ⁹
January 1853	At Launceston Female Factory. ⁹
22 March 1853	Hired in private service as a probation pass-holder to Henry Graham, Colonial Hospital, Launceston. ⁹
23 April 1853	At Launceston Female Factory. ⁹ Hired in private service as a probation pass-holder to T McKenna, Old Race Course, Launceston. ⁹
27 May 1853	Hired in private service as a probation pass-holder to J Bowden, Westbury. ⁹
2 July 1853	At Launceston Female Factory. ⁹
4 July 1853	Hired in private service as a probation pass-holder to H Biddle, Westbury. ⁹
1 November 1853	Conditional Pardon approved. ⁹
9 November 1853	Sent to her freedom, not to enter service in the district of Launceston. ⁹
29 November 1853	At Launceston Female Factory. ⁹
7 May 1854	Free by servitude. ⁹

Notes

- Agnes may be the Agnes Jones who died of inflammation at Launceston on 9 April 1855, aged 36, spinster; informant W Smith, undertaker.³⁷ If so, she was buried at the Episcopal Burial Ground, Launceston on 11 April 1855 in grave 11, row 4 SE; Holy Trinity parish.³⁸
- Alternatively, Agnes may be the Agnes Jones who was admitted to the General Hospital, Hobart on 8 August 1883 with breast cancer. If so, she died of breast cancer there on 31 August 1883 aged 65, housewife, born Scotland, Episcopalian; informant Secretary, General Hospital; buried by friends at Hobart.³⁹

³⁵ *Examiner*, 14 February 1852 p.12 (Agnes Agnew)

³⁶ *Examiner*, 23 October 1852 p.8 (Agnes Agnew)

³⁷ TAHO, RGD35/1/24 1855/1736 Launceston (Agnes Jones)

³⁸ TAHO, NS1735/1/9 p.34 No.474 (Agnes Jones); TAHO, NS748/1/76 April 1855 (Agnes Jones)

³⁹ TAHO, RGD35/1/10 1883/1120 Hobart (Agnes Jones); Purtscher, *Deaths at General Hospital Hobart* (Agnes Jones)